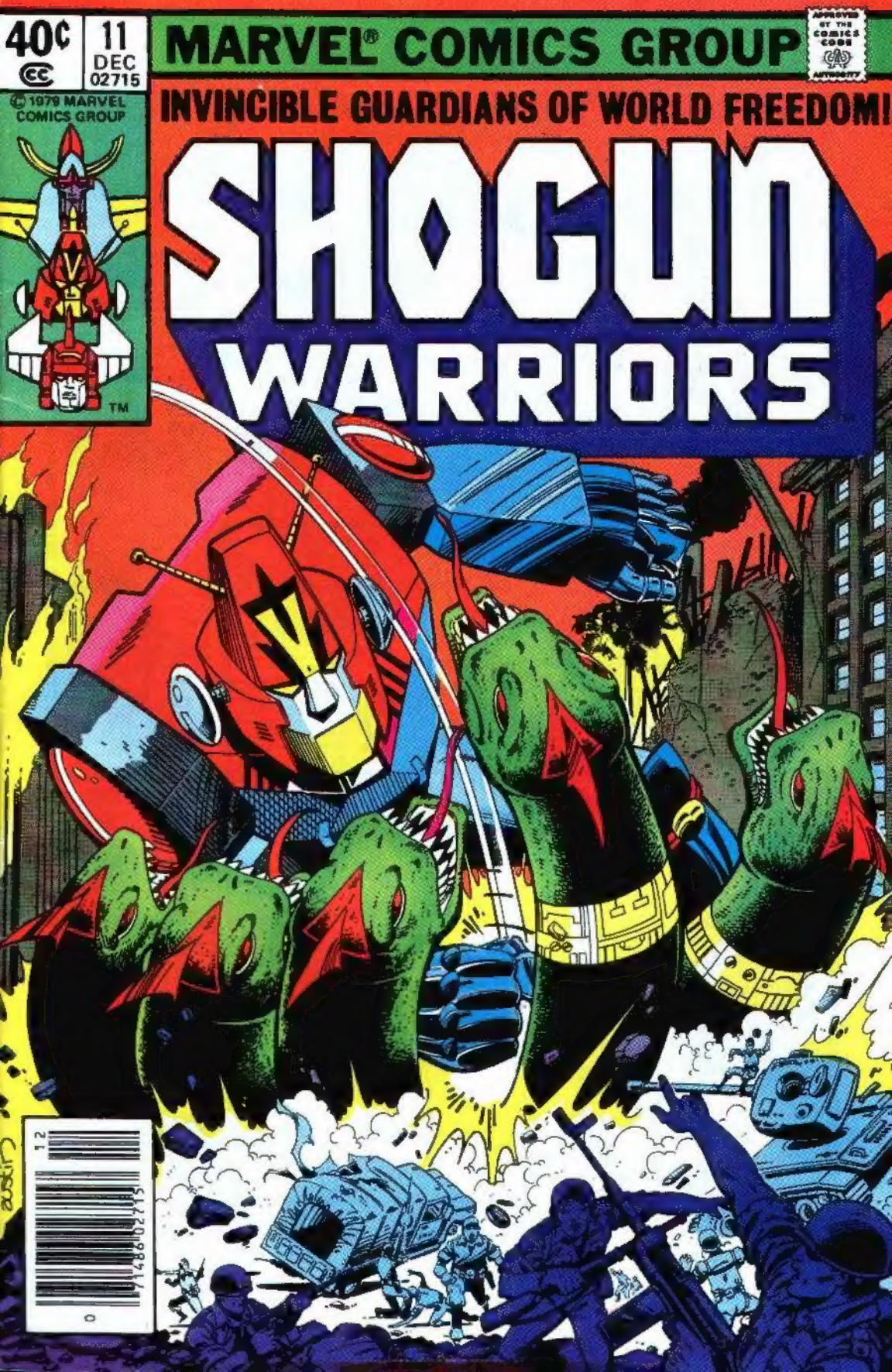
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SHOGUN WARRIORS
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Stan Lee PRESENTS: SHOGUN WARRIORS™

THE HAND OF FATE

TOKYO: THE FIRST SKIRMISH HAS ENDED IN STALEMATE.
AND NOW, AS COMBATRA STANDS READY TO FACE THE SECOND ASSAULT BY THE MYSTERIOUS HAND OF FIVE HEADS...
...THE JAPANESE MILITARY ROLLS ONTO THE SCENE.

DOUG MOENCH / writer — HERB TRIMPE / artist — JACK ABEL / inker — COSTANZA / letterer — GAFFORD / colorist — ALLEN MILGROM / editor — JIM SHOOTER / ed-in-chief

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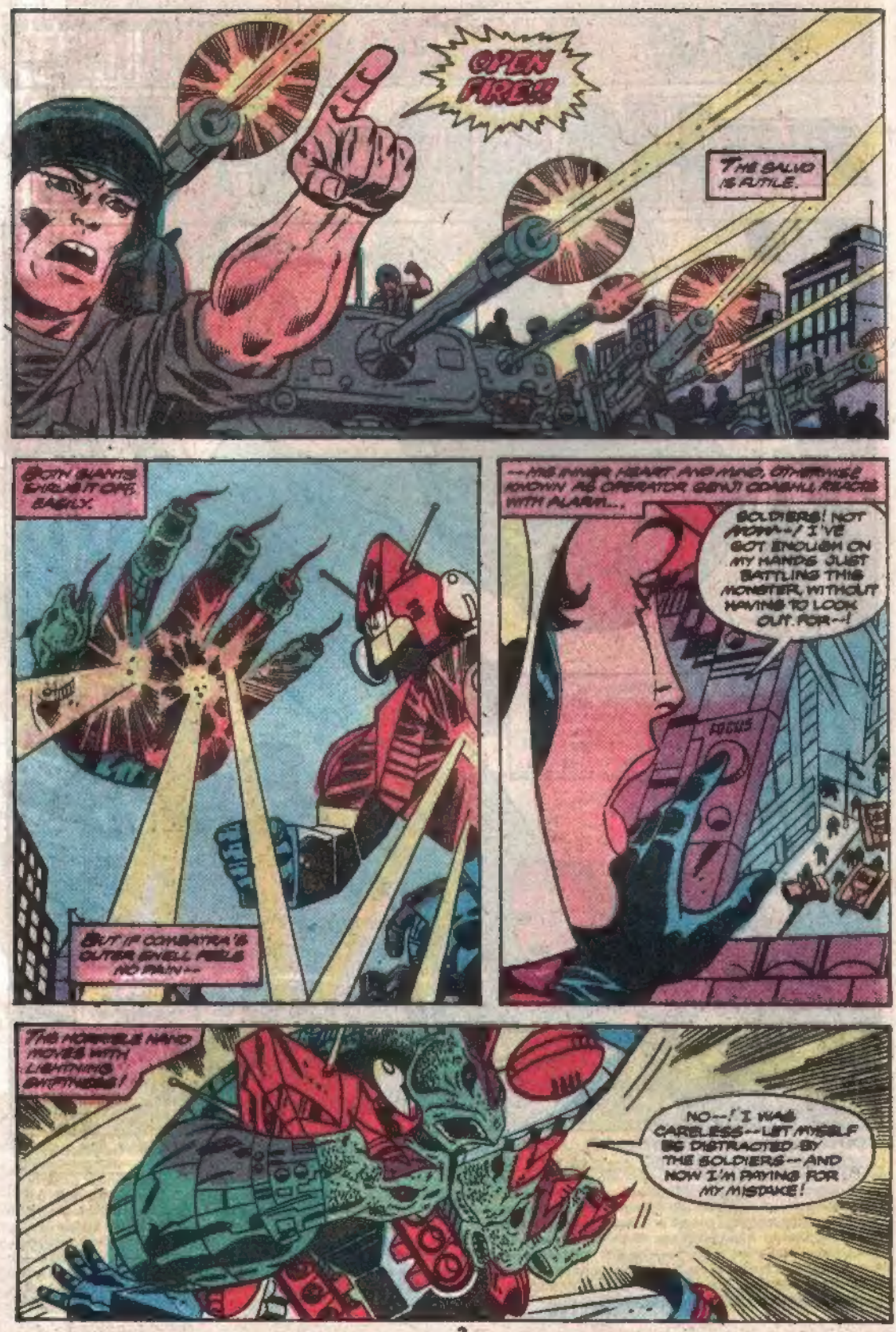
OPEN FIRE!!
THE SALVO IS RUTILE.
BOTH GIANTS EXPLAIN IT OFF, EASILY.
BUT IF COMBATRA'S OUTER SHELL FEELS NO PAIN--
--HIS INNER HEART AND MIND, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS OPERATOR GENJI COMBATU, REACTS WITH ALARM...
SOLDIERS! NOT NOW--! I'VE GOT ENOUGH ON MY HANDS JUST BATTLING THIS MONSTER, WITHOUT HAVING TO LOOK OUT FOR--!
FOCUS
THE HORRIBLE HAND MOVES WITH LIGHTNING SWIFTNESS!
NO--! I WAS CARELESS--LET MYSELF BE DISTRACTED BY THE SOLDIERS--AND NOW I'M PAYING FOR MY MISTAKE!

INDEED. THE FIVE HEADS ERUPT WITH FIRE.
TOO LATE TO LOCK THE THERMAL SHIELDS--!
HEAT'S GETTING TOO INTENSE-- I'LL SMOTHER! ONLY ONE CHANCE NOW..
"GOT TO RELEASE A CONCENTRATED BLAST OF JET PRESSURE!"
THE PLOY IS SUCCESSFUL.
WHRAMM
AND AS THE FALLEN MONSTER WRITHES ON THE SHATTERED STREET...
ATTACK-- NOW--WHILE IT'S STILL INJURED!

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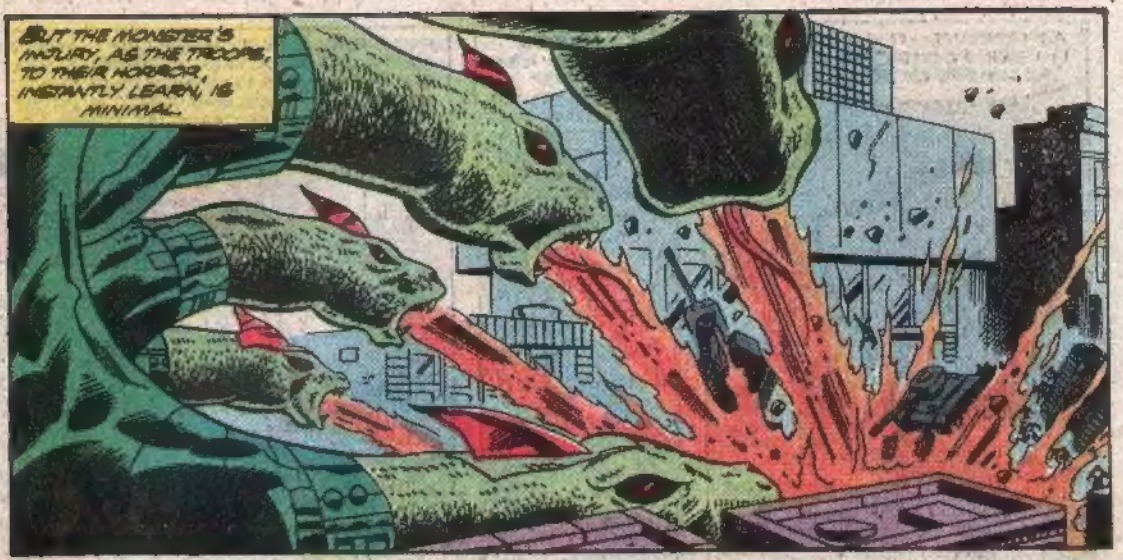
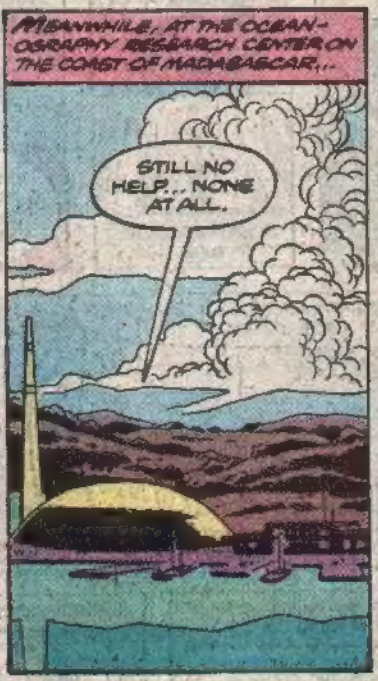
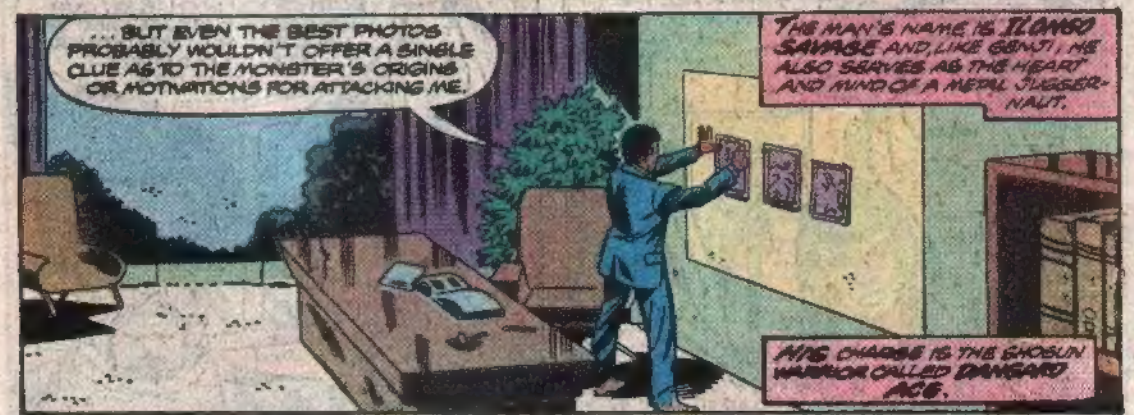

BUT THE MONSTER'S INJURY, AS THE TROOPS, TO THEIR HORROR, INSTANTLY LEARN, IS MINIMAL.

OH, NO! THIS IS JUST WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF! NOW I'VE GOT TO STOP THE THING--
--BEFORE THOSE SOLDIERS ARE WIPED OUT!


MEANWHILE, AT THE OCEANOGRAPHY RESEARCH CENTER ON THE COAST OF MADAGASCAR...
STILL NO HELP... NONE AT ALL.

...A MAN PONDERS A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE IMPOSSIBLE.
NAILSMITH DID A GOOD JOB GETTING THESE SHOTS...

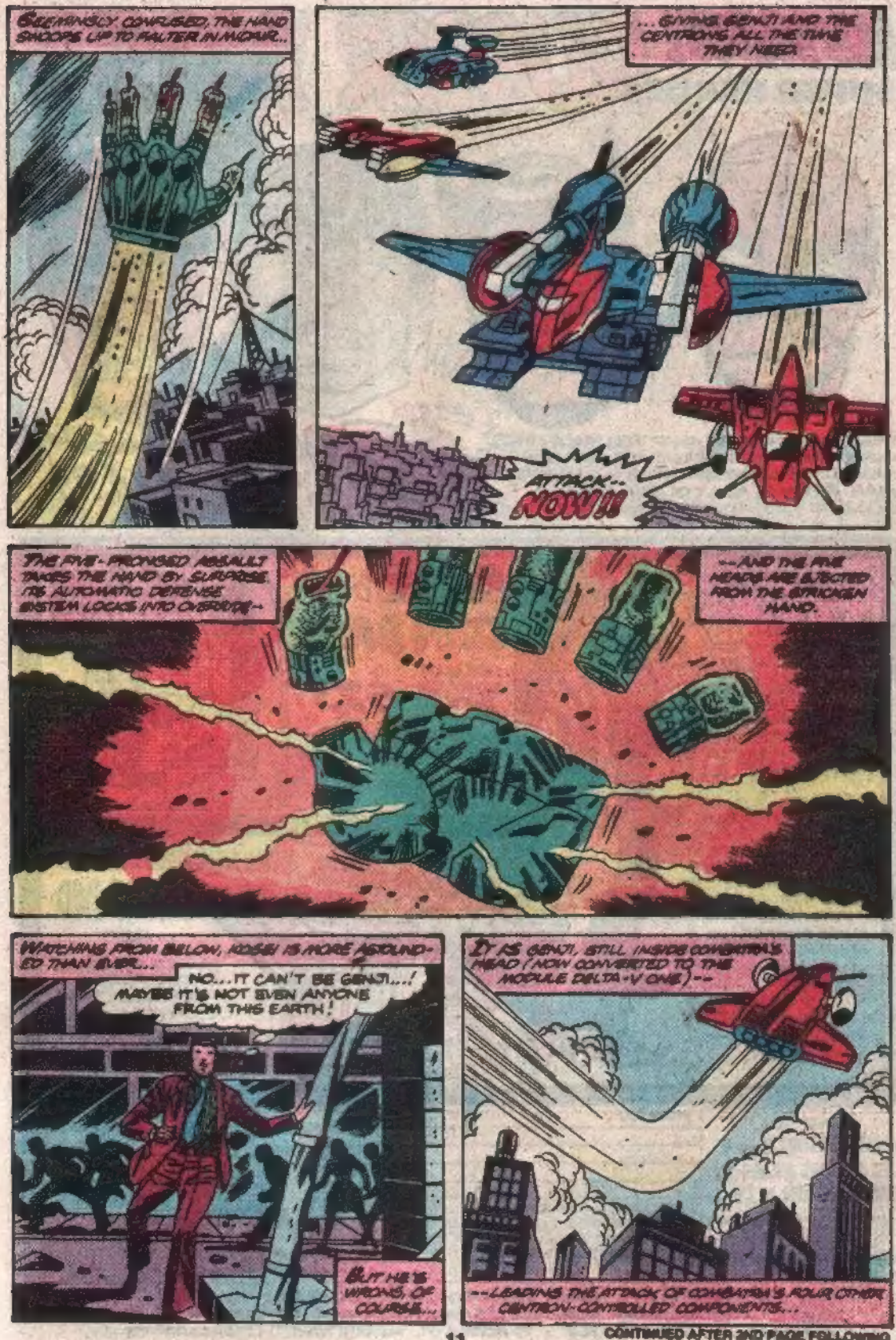

...BUT EVEN THE BEST PHOTOS PROBABLY WOULDN'T OFFER A SINGLE CLUE AS TO THE MONSTER'S ORIGINS OR MOTIVATIONS FOR ATTACKING ME.
THE MAN'S NAME IS ILLMO SAVAGE AND, LIKE GENJI, HE ALSO SERVES AS THE HEART AND MIND OF A METAL JUGGERNAUT.
HIS CHARGE IS THE SHOGUN WARRIOR CALLED DAIKARD ACE.

MY PENDANT--IT'S GLOWING! I'M BEING CONTACTED BY THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT...
HEAR ME, ILONKO SAVAGE. I BRING YOU A WARNING THAT DANGER MAY AGAIN BE NEAR...
THE SEPARATE ATTACKS ON YOU AND RICHARD CARSON--BY THE STARCHILD MONSTER AND THE THING CALLED CERBERUS--WERE ONLY THE BEGINNING.
SEE REALMS 7 THRU 9 --AL.
RIGHT NOW, GENJI ODASHU AND COMBATRA ARE FACING AN ATTACK OF THEIR OWN--BUT EVEN THIS IS PROBABLY ONLY THE BEGINNING. WE BELIEVE THERE MUST BE A COMMON LINK BETWEEN THE THREE ATTACKS.
EVEN YOU, ILONKO SAVAGE, THEORIZED THAT THE ANIMAL STARCHILD SEEMED TO MERELY TEST YOUR ABILITIES, PERHAPS FOR THE REAL STRUGGLE YET TO COME.
SO REMAIN ON ALERT AND PREPARED TO PILOT BANGARD ACE IF NECESSARY.
THAT IS ALL.
..., DR. TAMBURA.
THE IMAGE FADES...
--AND SAVAGE LEAVES HIS OFFICE IN SEARCH OF FELLOW WORKERS NAGAITH AND JUDITH...
...TAKE WEEKS TO REPAIR ALL THE DAMAGE DONE BY THAT MOB.
HE ADDRESSES THEM GRAVELY...
I MAY HAVE TO LEAVE THE CENTER AGAIN, AND I'M PLACING BOTH OF YOU IN CHARGE. OUR RESEARCH MUST PROCEED SMOOTHLY, WITH NO FURTHER CONFLICT WITH THE TOWNSPEOPLE.

TALL ORDER, ILONGO. THE TOWNSPEOPLE STILL BLAME THE CENTER FOR THAT INCREDIBLE CREATURE. THEY THINK WE CREATED THE THING HERE IN OUR LABS...
STILL, WE'LL DO OUR BEST. WHERE WILL YOU BE GOING?
NAISMITH DOES NOT KNOW ABOUT THE ILONGO SAVAGE-SWORD AGE CONNECTION.
I WISH I COULD SAY, NAISMITH...
BUT JUDITH DOES KNOW, AND SHE KNOWS THIS, TOO: WHEREVER ILONGO SAVAGE GOES, IT WILL BE INTO THE VERY HEART OF DANGER... WHICH COULD LEAVE HER HEART VERY EMPTY INDEED.
VERY WELL, ILONGO.
WE'LL MANAGE, BUT... TAKE CARE.
WHILE BACK IN TOKYO...
MANAGED TO GET THE THING AWAY FROM THE TROOPS...
NOW TO MAKE SURE IT STAYS FAR AWAY!
SO SAYING, THE MIGHTY SHOGUN ROBOT HURLS THE HAND OF EVE ACROSS THE CITY.
CEASE FIRE ON THE HUMANOID ONE! IT SEEMS TO BE PROTECTING US!
DOWN IN THE MIDST OF THE CHAOS, KOSEI ONO, GENJI'S CLOSE FRIEND, STILL CANNOT BELIEVE WHAT IS HAPPENING. HIS LIFE WAS RECENTLY SAVED BY THE GIANT ROBOT, AND NOW, HE BEGINS TO WONDER...
COULD... COULD GENJI HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS? AFTER ALL, SHE DID DISAPPEAR JUST AS THE GIANT ROBOT AND THE MONSTER APPEARED OUTSIDE THE COURTHOUSE...
...WHERE A HEARING WAS BEING CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER GENJI WAS A TERRORIST-- RESPONSIBLE FOR THE THEFT OF A TOP-SECRET JET PLANE.

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

NO GOOD--IT'S SNOOPING AROUND! I WON'T GET RID OF IT THAT EASILY..
WHAT'S MORE, IT'S INCREASING ITS SPEED FOR A DIRECT STRIKE!
I'D BETTER BREAK COMBATRA DOWN INTO COMPONENT PIECES AND SWITCH TO ROBOT CONTROL.
CALLING CENTRONS TWO THROUGH FIVE! PREPARE TO ASSUME INDIVIDUAL CONTROL OF YOUR ASSIGNED MODULES!
"READY"
3 4 5
SEQUENCE
2 3 4
BACK-UP SEQU
PRIME FOR FIVE-WAY SPLIT.. NOW!
COMBATRA BREAKS APART FROM ITS CENTER, AND THE HAND OF FATE CONTINUES STREAKING THROUGH THE SPACE BETWEEN THE DIVERGING COMPONENTS...
WE DID IT--JUST IN TIME!


SEEMINGLY CONFUSED, THE HAND SWOOPS UP TO FALTER IN MIDAIR...
...GIVING GENJI AND THE CENTRONS ALL THE TIME THEY NEED!
ATTACK-- NOW!!
THE FIVE-PRONGED ASSAULT TAKES THE HAND BY SURPRISE. ITS AUTOMATIC DEFENSE SYSTEM LOCKS INTO OVERDRIVE--
--AND THE FIVE HEADS ARE EJECTED FROM THE STRICKEN HAND.
WATCHING FROM BELOW, KOSEI IS MORE ASTOUNDED THAN EVER...
NO...IT CAN'T BE GENJI...! MAYBE IT'S NOT EVEN ANYONE FROM THIS EARTH!
BUT HE'S WRONG, OF COURSE...
IT IS GENJI, STILL INSIDE COMBATRA'S HEAD (NOW CONVERTED TO THE MODULE DELTA-V ONE)--
--LEADING THE ATTACK OF COMBATRA'S FOUR OTHER CENTRON-CONTROLLED COMPONENTS...

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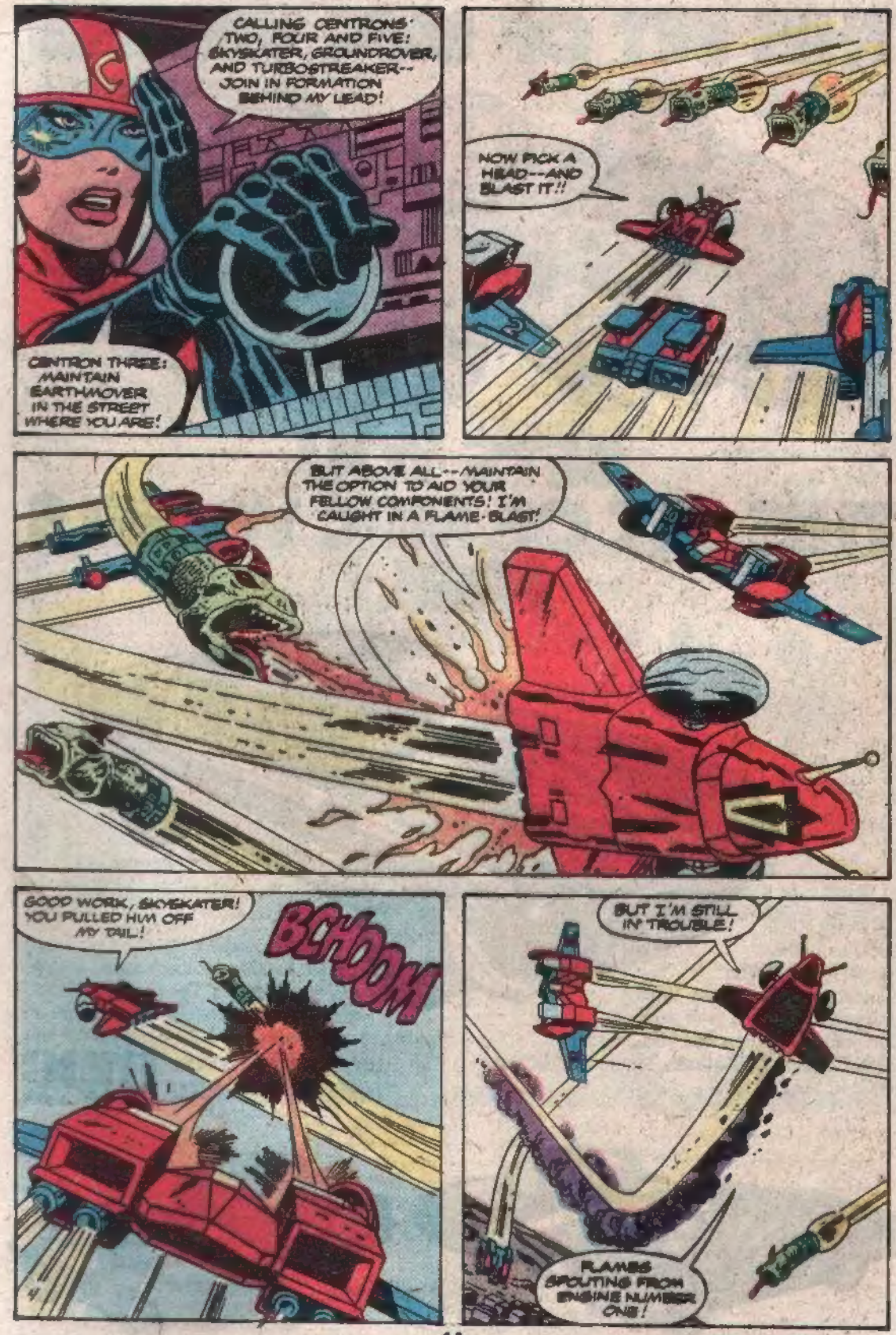
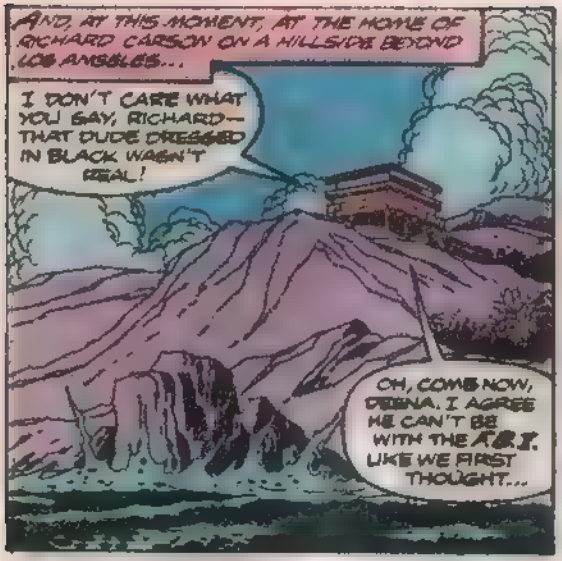
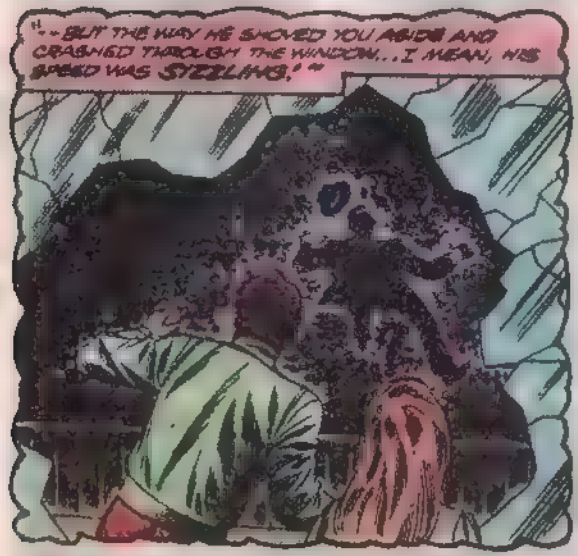
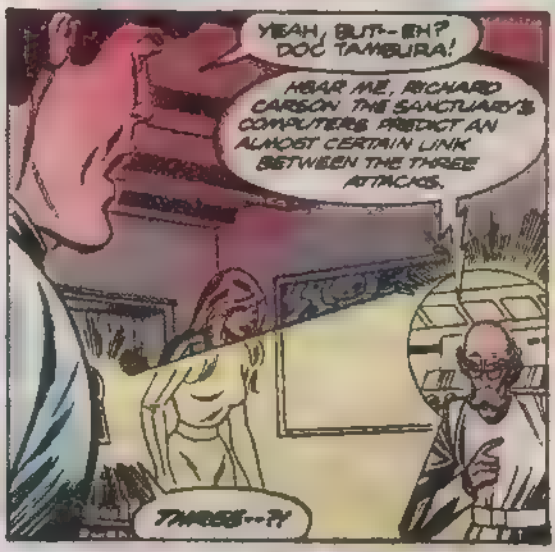
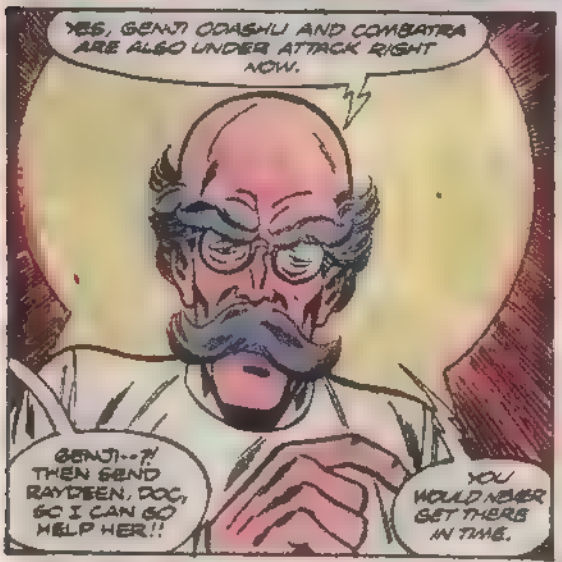

CALLING CENTRONS' TWO, FOUR AND FIVE! SKYSKATER, GROUNDROVER, AND TURBOSTREAKER-- JOIN IN FORMATION BEHIND MY LEAD!
CENTRON THREE! MAINTAIN EARTHMOVER IN THE STREET WHERE YOU ARE!
NOW PICK A HEAD--AND BLAST IT!!
BUT ABOVE ALL--MAINTAIN THE OPTION TO AID YOUR FELLOW COMPONENTS! I'M CAUGHT IN A FLAME-BLAST!
GOOD WORK, SKYSKATER! YOU PULLED HUN OFF MY TAIL!
BCHOOM
BUT I'M STILL IN TROUBLE!
FLAMES SPOUTING FROM ENGINE NUMBER ONE!


AND, AT THIS MOMENT, AT THE HOME OF RICHARD CARSON ON A HILLSIDE BEYOND LOS ANGELES...
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY, RICHARD--THAT DUDE DRESSED IN BLACK WASN'T REAL!
OH, COME NOW, DEENA. I AGREE HE CAN'T BE WITH THE A.R.I. LIKE WE FIRST THOUGHT...

...BUT HE WAS REAL ENOUGH, REAL ENOUGH TO FEEL.
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN, RICHARD! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ONE OF THE TOP STUNTMEN IN HOLLYWOOD--




YEAH, BUT--EH? DOC TAMBURA!
HEAR ME, RICHARD CARSON! THE SANCTUARY'S COMPUTERS PREDICT AN ALMOST CERTAIN LINK BETWEEN THE THREE ATTACKS.
THREE--?!


YES, GENJI COASHU AND COMBATRA ARE ALSO UNDER ATTACK RIGHT NOW.
GENJI--?! THEN SEND RAYDEEN, DOC, SO I CAN GO HELP HER!!
YOU WOULD NEVER GET THERE IN TIME.

THE COMPUTER PREDICTS THE BATTLE WILL END IN A MATTER OF MINUTES. BESIDES, EACH WARRIOR MUST LEARN TO HANDLE ITS OWN CRISES.

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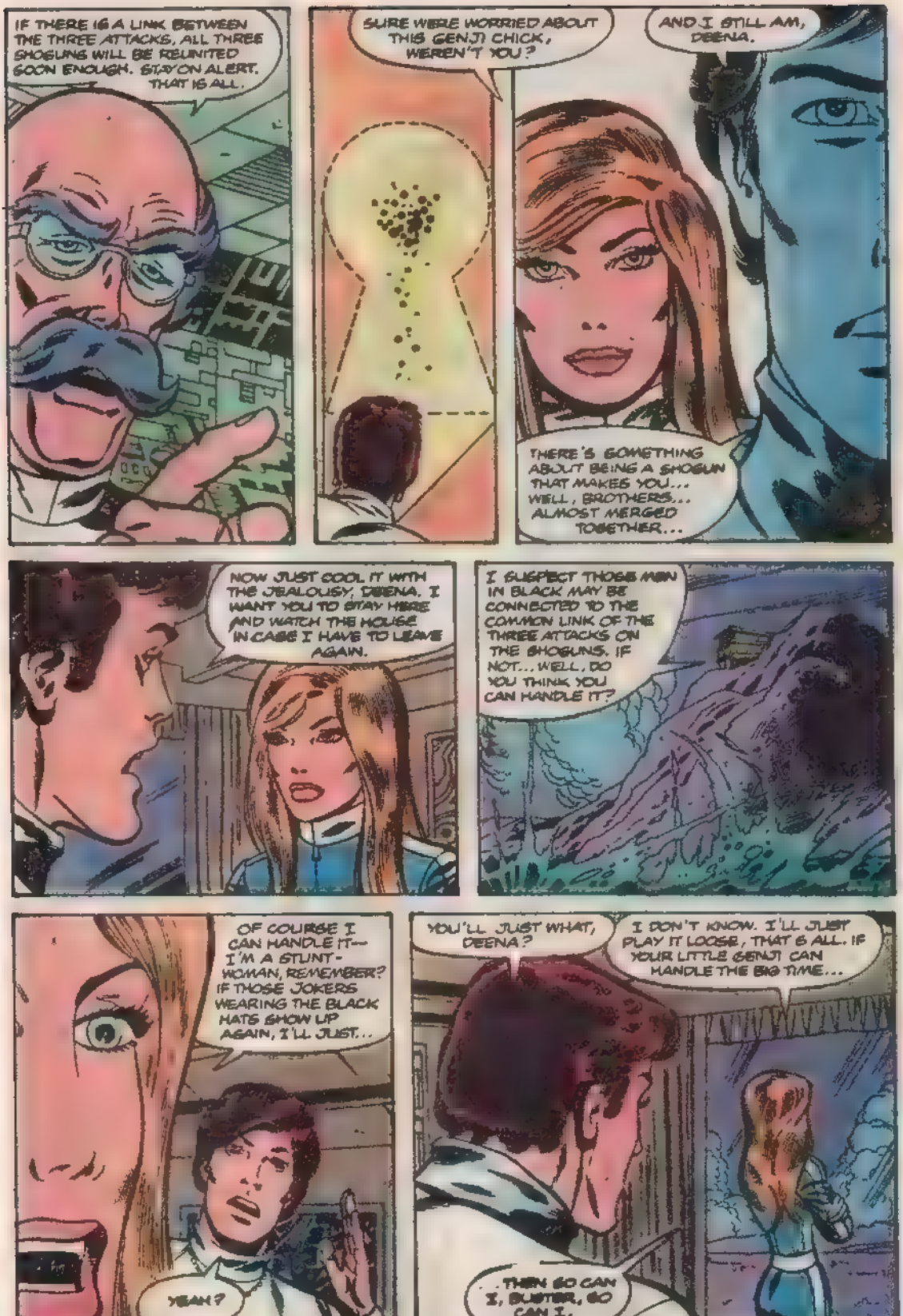
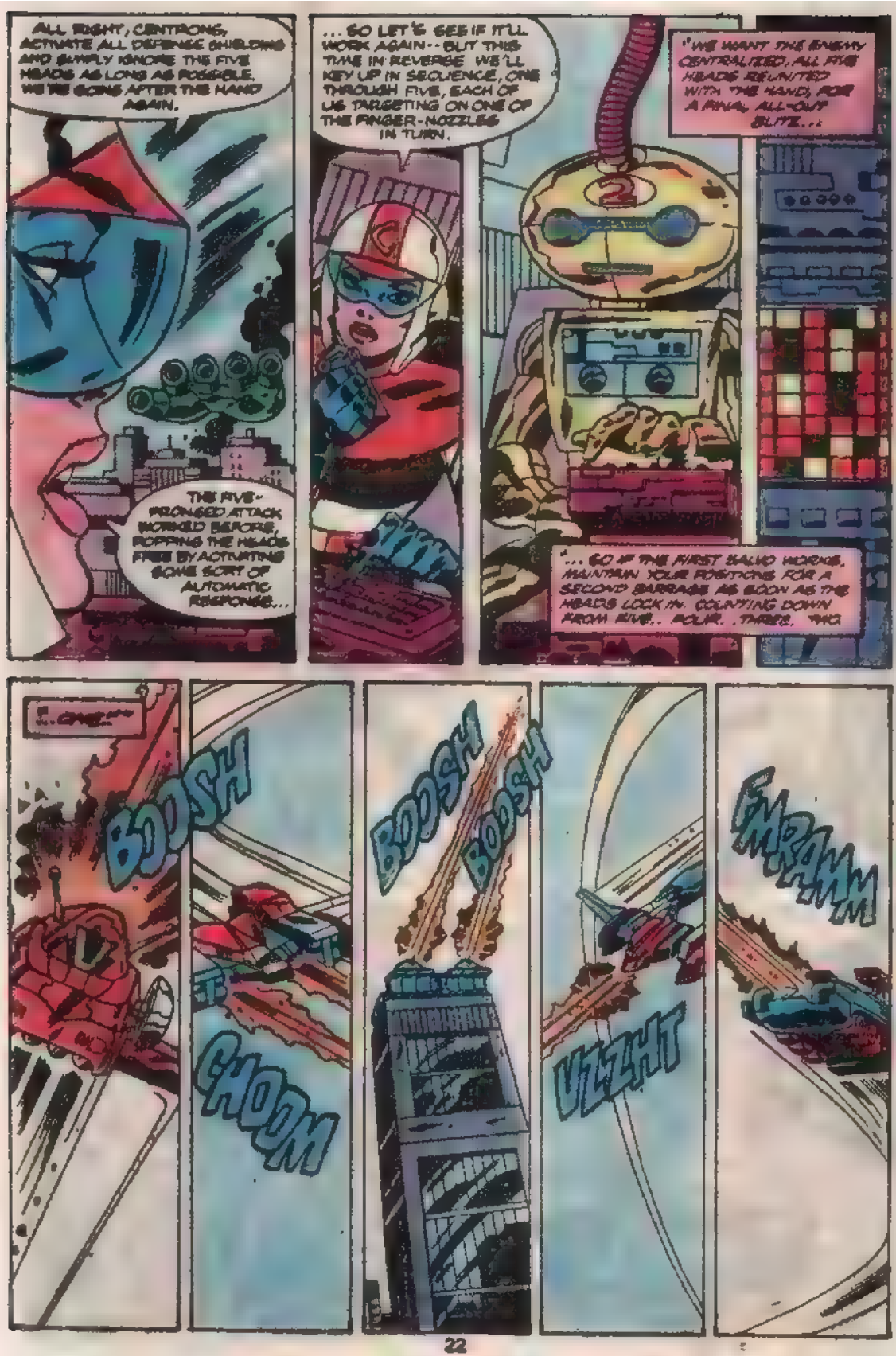
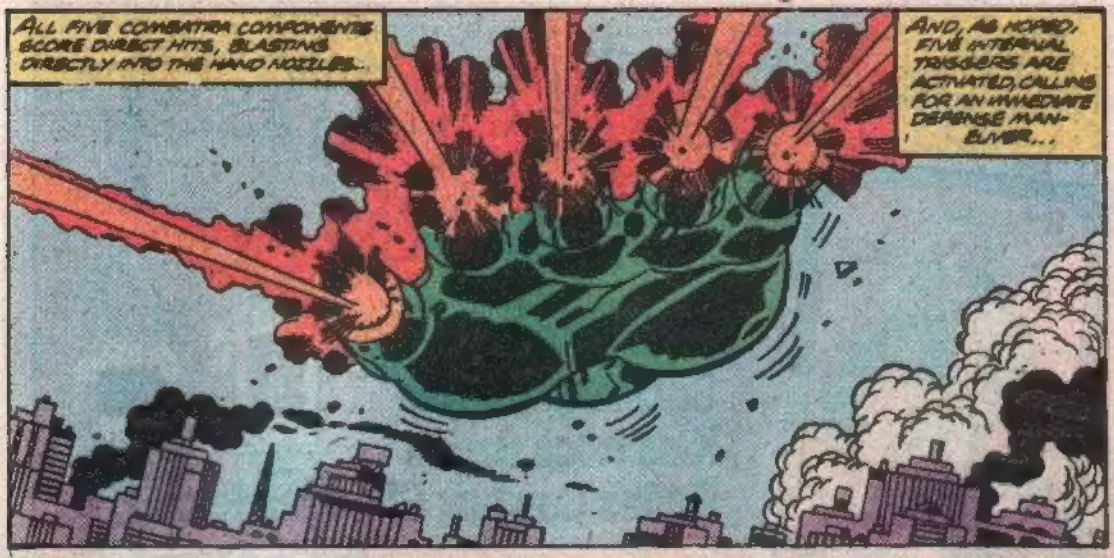
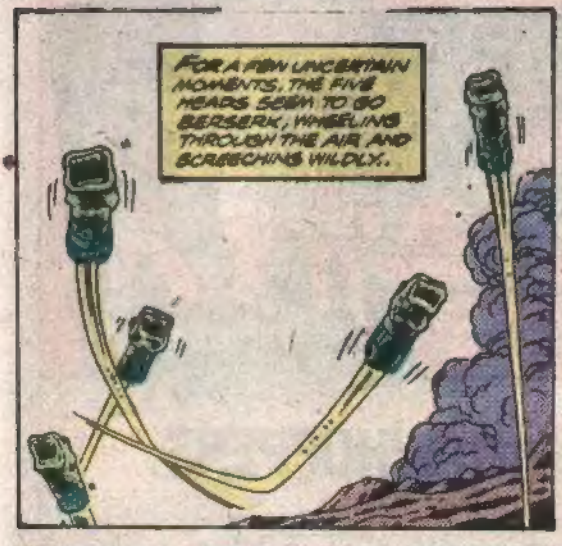

IF THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN THE THREE ATTACKS, ALL THREE SHOGUNS WILL BE REUNITED SOON ENOUGH. STAY ON ALERT. THAT IS ALL.
SURE WERE WORRIED ABOUT THIS GENJI CHICK, WEREN'T YOU?
AND I STILL AM, DEENA.
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT BEING A SHOGUN THAT MAKES YOU... WELL, BROTHERS... ALMOST MERGED TOGETHER...
NOW JUST COOL IT WITH THE JEALOUSY, DEENA. I WANT YOU TO STAY HERE AND WATCH THE HOUSE IN CASE I HAVE TO LEAVE AGAIN.
I SUSPECT THOSE MEN IN BLACK MAY BE CONNECTED TO THE COMMON LINK OF THE THREE ATTACKS ON THE SHOGUNS. IF NOT... WELL, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT?
OF COURSE I CAN HANDLE IT-- I'M A STUNT-WOMAN, REMEMBER? IF THOSE JOKERS WEARING THE BLACK HATS SHOW UP AGAIN, I'LL JUST...
YEAH?
YOU'LL JUST WHAT, DEENA?
I DON'T KNOW. I'LL JUST PLAY IT LOOSE, THAT IS ALL. IF YOUR LITTLE GENJI CAN HANDLE THE BIG TIME...
THEN SO CAN I, BUSTER, SO CAN I.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

I'VE SHUT OFF THE ENGINE, BUT IT'S STILL SMOKING-- THE FIRE'S SPREADING INWARD...
...AND IF IT'S BURNED THROUGH THE EXTINGUISHER CIRCUITS...
FIRE CONTROL
"NO--IT'S MORNING! THE FIRE'S GOING OUT!"
A BREATHY SIGH OF RELIEF, ACROSS THE EXTINGUISHER'S SOUND.
WOOOSH
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE BACK IN ACTION AGAIN. TURBOSTREAKER FOUR: SWOOP DOWN FOR A MAGNETIC PICKUP OF EARTHMOVER THREE!
THE COMMAND IS OBEYED, AND WHEN THE SKYLIFT HAS BEEN PRECISELY TIMED...
"CUT THE MAGNETIC FIELD AND DROP EARTHMOVER-- NOW!"
THE TRACTOR-LIKE BEHEMOTH LANDS PERFECTLY, SQUARELY ATOP A STRATEGICALLY LOCATED ROOF, ITS WEAPONS ALREADY BLAZING.


ALL RIGHT, CENTRONS, ACTIVATE ALL DEFENSE SHIELDING AND SIMPLY IGNORE THE FIVE HEADS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. WE'RE GOING AFTER THE HAND AGAIN.
THE FIVE-PRONGED ATTACK WORKED BEFORE, POPPING THE HEADS FREE BY ACTIVATING SOME SORT OF AUTOMATIC RESPONSE...
...SO LET'S SEE IF IT'LL WORK AGAIN--BUT THIS TIME IN REVERSE. WE'LL KEY UP IN SEQUENCE, ONE THROUGH FIVE, EACH OF US TARGETTING ON ONE OF THE FINGER-NOZZLES IN TURN.
"WE WANT THE ENEMY CENTRALIZED, ALL FIVE HEADS REUNITED WITH THE HAND, FOR A FINAL ALL-OUT BLITZ...
"...SO IF THE FIRST SALVO WORKS, MAINTAIN YOUR POSITIONS FOR A SECOND BARRAGE AS SOON AS THE HEADS LOCK IN. COUNTING DOWN FROM FIVE.. FOUR.. THREE.. TWO..
"...ONE!"
BOOSH
CHOOM
BOOSH
BOOSH
VLZHT
FWRAMM

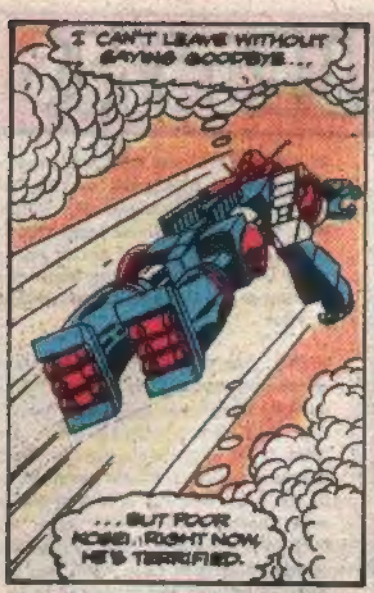

ALL FIVE COMBATRA COMPONENTS SCORE DIRECT HITS, BLASTING DIRECTLY INTO THE HAND NOZZLES...
AND, AS HOPED, FIVE INTERNAL TRIGGERS ARE ACTIVATED, CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE DEFENSE MANEUVER...

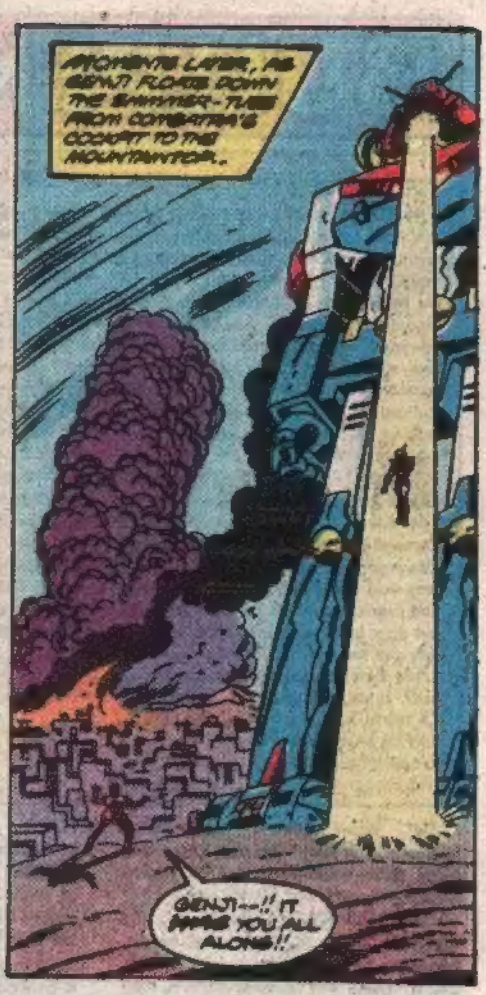


BUT BEFORE GENSI CAN LAUNCH THE SECOND BARRAGE...
WAIT A MINUTE! IT'S TAKING OFF AT HYPERSPEED! IT'S FLEEING BEFORE WE CAN INITIATE THE REAL ATTACK!
EITHER WE HURT IT MORE THAN I EXPECTED--OR ITS MISSION HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

DELTA'S NOT FAST ENOUGH TO PURSUE -- I'D NEED GROUNDROVER'S SUPER-JETS TO OVERTAKE IT...
AND BY THE TIME I MERGE THE COMPONENTS BACK INTO COMBATRA, IT'LL BE TOO LATE.
MIGHT AS WELL MERGE ANYWAY...
...THEN CALL SANCTUARY TO SEE ABOUT MY REMAINING PROBLEM...
COMBATRA CALLING SHOGUN SANCTUARY!
WE WON THE FIGHT-- I THINK-- BUT THE MONSTER ESCAPED.
GOOD ENOUGH. OUR COMPUTERS EXPECTED NO MORE, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF MUCH LESS. DO YOU WISH US TO RECALL COMBATRA NOW?
NO, I'D LIKE TO KEEP COMBATRA, IF I MAY.
YOU SEE, I THINK I'D BETTER LEAVE JAPAN. I'M IN SERIOUS TROUBLE HERE, AND COMBATRA IS MY BEST MEANS OF GETTING AWAY.
VERY WELL. JUST GIVE US PROGRESS REPORTS.
MOMENTS LATER, ACME CHO RECEIVES HIT ANOTHER SHOCK...
THE ROBOT-- IT'S PICKING ME UP!




A MOMENT'S LATER, AS GENJI RIDES DOWN THE SHIMMER-TUBE FROM COMBATRA'S COCKPIT TO THE MOUNTAINTOP...
GENJI---!! IT WAS YOU ALL ALONG!!

THEN THIS IS THE "EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE" YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT--THE THING WHICH HAS MADE ALL ELSE UNIMPORTANT TO YOU...
YES, KOSEI.

BUT...NOW YOU'RE IN MORE TROUBLE THAN EVER! DISAPPEARING WITH THE JET PROTOTYPE WAS ONE THING--BUT A MONSTER ATTACKING THE COURTHOUSE DURING YOUR HEARING...!
YES. AND THAT'S WHY I MUST LEAVE YOU, KOSEI.

LEAVE? BUT YOUR JOB! THE HEARING! YOU'VE GOT TO FACE IT SOMETIME!
THE JOB IS NOT IMPORTANT, AND I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CLEAR MYSELF AT THE HEARING NOW. YOU JUST SAID SO YOURSELF.

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BUT WHERE WILL YOU GO, GENJI?
TO A FRIEND IN AMERICA... AT LEAST FOR A TIME BEING. I...I NEED TIME TO THINK...
BUT WHAT ABOUT US?
I NEED TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT TOO, KOSEI.
I...I SEE.
THEN... GOODBYE, GENJI...
...AND... AND GOOD LUCK.
I...I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.
SHOGUN SANCTUARY:
DR. TAMBURA-- QUICKLY! I THINK THIS IS IT-- THE COMMON LINK WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!
A METEOR, CHARN?
YES--IT APPEARED WITHOUT WARNING-- SEEMED TO MATERIALIZE FROM NOWHERE!
ORBITAL VEHICLE 48 REA
AND IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR EARTH!!

NEXT ISSUE: REUNITED AGAIN, THE MIGHTY SHOGUN WARRIORS BATTLE TOGETHER AGAINST-- **THE MOON MENACE!**